

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Cancel claims 5-8 without prejudice to filing a divisional patent application.

**Listing of claims:**

Claims 1-4, 9, 10 (original).

Claims 5-8 (cancelled).

**Text of pending claims**

**CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) An automatic baud rate detection circuit comprising:

a signal detector which detects first predetermined signals at an input stage of a transceiver and responsive thereto, outputs second predetermined signals;  
a reference signal oscillator generator; and  
a frequency discriminator which receives a reference signal from the reference signal oscillator generator, and signals from the input stage of the transceiver, and outputs a baud rate signal in response to the second predetermined signals from the signal detector.

2. (Original) The circuit according to claim 1, wherein the input stage of the transceiver comprises:

a photodetector which detects optical communications signals and outputs electrical signals;

a linear amplifier coupled to receive the electrical signals from the photodetector at an input and produce output signals at an output thereof; and

a limiting amplifier which receives signals from the linear amplifier output at an input and produces output signals at an output thereof;

wherein the signal detector receives the first predetermined signals from the output of the linear amplifier, and wherein the frequency discriminator receives signals from the output of the limiting amplifier.

3. (Original) The circuit according to claim 2, further comprising a decoder which decodes the baud rate signal from the frequency discriminator and produces a decoded output signal.

4. (Original) The circuit according to claim 3, wherein:

the linear amplifier comprises a selectable filter; and

the decoded output signal from the decoder is provided to the selectable filter to select a filter configuration appropriate for an associated baud rate.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A method of automatic baud rate negotiation comprising utilizing the automatic baud rate detection circuit according to claim 1.

10. (Original) A transceiver arrangement having a transceiver comprising the automatic baud rate detection circuit according to claim 1, the transceiver arrangement further comprising:

a multiplexer which receives data at a first input and a predetermined digital pattern signal at a second input, and which outputs either the data or the digital pattern signal at an output depending on a negotiate control signal input signal;

a serializer which receives the output from the multiplexer and provides a serialized output to the transceiver; and

a state machine which outputs a first control signal to the transceiver, and outputs the negotiate control signal to the multiplexer to select the digital pattern signal, responsive to receiving a second control signal from the transceiver.